ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

—OF THE—

SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

Pea River Baptist Association,

—HELD WITH—

WOODLAND GROVE CHURCH, COFFEE CO., ALA.,

NOVEMBER 2ND, 3D AND 4TH 1873.

OFFICERS:

W. J. WHITE ..... MODERATOR.
A. J. WISE, JR ..... CLERK.

Printed at the Office of The Troy Messenger, Troy, Ala.

MINUTES.

—OF THE—

SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

Pea River Baptist Association,

—HELD WITH—

WOODLAND GROVE CHURCH, COFFEE CO., ALA.,

NOVEMBER 2ND, 3D AND 4TH 1878.

OFFICERS:

W. J. WHITE.....Moderator.
A. J. WISE, Jr.....Clerk.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Hear Letters from the Churches read.
2. Elect Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.
3. Invite Ministering brethren to seats.
4. Call for Petitions from Churches desiring to unite.
5. Appoint Committees to report during the session.
   - To arrange preaching.
   - On Missions.
   - On Finance.
   - On Documents.
   - On Nominations.
6. Call for Correspondence.
7. Return Correspondence.
8. Have Rules of Decorum read.
9. Call roll and mark absentees.
10. Hear Treasurer's Report.
11. Hear Miscellaneous Resolutions.
12. Hear Reports from Committees.
13. Make arrangements for printing minutes.
14. Correct minutes and adjourn.

MINUTES.

The Pea River Baptist Association met with Woodland Grove Church, Coffee County, Alabama, in its second Annual Session, on the second day of November, 1878.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Eld. T. L. Houck, at 11 o'clock, A. M., from 12th chap. and 10th verse of John.

After one hour for refreshments the body was called to order by the former Moderator, Jesse M. Rowe. Prayer by Eld. W. J. White.

By request, Eld. W. J. White and J. W. Bullard read the letters from the Churches.

Delegates names were enrolled as follows:

Shiloh—A. J. Wise, Jr., and M. A. Helms.

Woodland Grove—Eld. J. M. Rowe and J. J. Thames.

New Providence—Joseph Wise and A. Windham.

Proceeded to the election of officers which resulted in the election of W. J. White, Moderator, and A. J. Wise, Jr., Clerk.

CALLED FOR PETITIONARY LETTERS.

A letter was presented from New Ebenezer Church, Coffee County, Ala., by her delegates: Wm. Taylor and A. J. Mullins. Received and right hand of fellowship extended.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED.

On Preaching: Joseph Wise, W. Taylor and J. J. Thames.

On Finance: Eld. J. M. Rowe, A. Windham and M. A. Helms.

On Nominations: W. Taylor, M. A. Helms and A. Windham.

The Committee on Preaching report as follows: Eld. John Bradley to preach at 11 o'clock, A. M., Sabbath, followed by Eld. J. W. Bullard.

On motion, adjourned until 9 o'clock Monday.

SABBATH.

On Sabbath, the Ministers preached in the order of their names, to large and attentive congregations.

MONDAY MORNING, NOV. 4, 1878.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Singing and Prayer by Eld. John Bradley.

Read and adopted the Minutes of Saturday. Called the roll and marked absentees.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES.

Report on Nominations read and adopted. See appendix "A".

Report on Finance read and adopted. See appendix "B."

Eld. J. M. Rowe, chairman of committee on Constitution, from last session, read the Constitution, Abstract of Faith and Rules of Decorum, which were unanimously adopted and ordered published in the body of these minutes.

RETURNED CORRESPONDENCE.

On motion, agreed to correspond with sister Associations, when the following brethren volunteered as messengers:

To Newton Association: Eld. J. M. Rowe, M. A. Helms and A. J. Wise, Jr.

To Sandy Creek Association: Brothers J. M. Rowe, W. J. White and J. J. Thames.

Appointed next session of this body to be held with New Providence Church, one mile East of Elba.

The following resolutions were offered and adopted:

Resolved, That the Clerk be appointed to write a Circular Letter and have it published with these minutes.

Resolved, That the thanks of this body are due and are hereby tendered to the members of Woodland Grove Church, together with the citizens of the surrounding vicinity, for their kind and hospitable entertainment during the session of this body.

Read and adopted the minutes.

The Association then adjourned to meet with New Providence Church, Saturday before the first Sabbath in November, 1879.

W. J. WHITE, MODERATOR.

A. J. WISE, Jr., Clerk.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

JESSE M. ROWE.....Elba, Ala.
W. J. WHITE.....Elba, Ala.

APPENDIX A.

We, your Committee on Nominations, beg leave to make the following report: To preach the Introductory Sermon, at the next session, Eld. Jesse M. Rowe. Alternate, W. J. White. Respectfully submitted.

M. A. HELMS, Ch'n.

APPENDIX B.

We, your Committee on Finance, beg leave to report as follows:

Amount sent up for minutes.....$10 00

All of which has been turned over to the Clerk for the purpose of paying for minutes

JESSE M. ROWE, Ch'n.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

"Union or Relationship of Christ to the Church."

The Lord Jesus Christ is set forth in the Old and New Testaments as having an everlasting existence—as being without beginning of days or end of life, and as the supreme God, by whom all things were made, that were made; for we learn that without him was not anything made that was made. "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men." He is therefore presented as the Creator and complete Sovereign of heaven and earth. The Scriptures teach us that Christ was set up from everlasting as the head of his Church and Saviour of his people, according to the covenant of love, which brought him, at the appointed time, from heaven to earth, for the redemption of his people. As their Redeemer, he is personally distinguished as their Mediator between God and man. In this character he appeared in a body which, according to his own words, his Father had prepared for him, in which he perfected the redemption of his people which had everlastingly existed in him according to the purpose of God. God having loved his people with an everlasting love, with loving kindness he has drawn them; and thus proved that they had an everlasting existence in and by Christ, they standing in the same relation to Christ that Eve stood to Adam. In forming a bride for Adam, the Lord took her out of Adam, or took from him a rib of which he formed Eve, so that she was a part Adam, consequently in this particular, she existed in Adam before her formation, as the Church, also, in a spiritual sense, existed in Christ, being chosen and embraced in him before the foundation of the world, that she should be holy and without blame before him in love. Hence his coming in the flesh, being made of a woman, made under the law to meet its demands in behalf of his people which were chosen in him, he took on himself the form of a servant.

He was born of a virgin by the overshadowing of the Holy Ghost, who according to the scriptures, brought forth a son, whose name was called Jesus. This child of the virgin, conceived and brought forth by the Holy Ghost, was an ample and all sufficient sacrifice for them that were in him, according to the course of God's unchanging love and mercy. The Church in a spiritual sense, originates in him, and was taken out of him, even as Eve was taken out of Adam. Hence the Apostle declared to the Ephesians that the saints were the members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. When Jesus cried, "It is finished," and gave up the Ghost, every soul that ever will be glorified was fully redeemed; and the Holy Ghost is sent to regenerate and make this redemption known to ALL the members of this body for whom he suffered. He was delivered for the offences and raised again from the dead for the justification of his people; and this salvation, already perfected is made known to them by the Holy Ghost in due time, for the Holy Ghost was to take of the things of Jesus and show them unto the heirs of salvation. God has given him to be the Head over all things to the Church, which is his body and the fullness of him that filleth all in all. Therefore the Church cannot exist but by her Head, and from her Head she derives all her comfort and consolation, in him she is made strong, and even able to withstand all her enemies. She is equipped by the great Head and Leader, with the whole armor of God for her warfare. The Lord

himself is her defence, her hiding place, and her strong oar. The spirit maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. She is dependent on the teaching and intercession of the spirit, and without that instruction and intercession we cannot even pray as we ought. The Church is drawn and constrained to pray for the favor and blessings that God is pleased to bestow upon her. Whatsoever we thus ask in his name, he has declared shall be given us of his Father.

In this blessed union to Christ the saints are blessed with all spiritual blessings; and they have the assurance that no good thing will be withheld from them that walk uprightly. Jesus is unto his Church a "Friend that sticketh closer than a brother," and he will never leave nor forsake her; he will conduct her through all her troubles and trials, and finally present her at the right hand of the throne of God, to dwell forever in the presence of God; when there is fullness of joy and pleasure forever more.

BRETHREN:—

"When friends on earth together meet,
And find the passing moments sweet,
Time's rapid moments soon compel
The saints to bid the sad farewell."

But O, happy thought! when we contemplate meeting ALL the people of God in one grand association, never to part again.

May the Lord abundantly bless all his people and sustain them through their days of tribulation, and preserve them by his mighty power, through faith unto salvation.

A. J. WISE, Jr.

CONSTITUTION OF THE PEA RIVER ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE 1. This union of Churches shall be known and designated by the style and title of the PEA RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ART. 2. This Association shall be composed of representatives from the Churches in union. Each Church shall be entitled to three representatives, who shall be required to furnish satisfactory evidence of their appointment by the Churches before they take their seats.

ART. 3. The Delegates, when convened, shall organize themselves into a deliberative body by the appointment of a Moderator, and a Clerk. These officers shall be chosen by ballot at each Annual Meeting, and continue in office until new ones are chosen.

ART. 4. The Association shall not interfere with the rights of the Churches of which she is composed. She shall regard them as independent bodies in all measures of internal government, and shall only act as an advisory council, assuming no authority except what is expressly delegated to her by the Churches, or is evidently implied by the very nature of this compact. She, nevertheless, claims authority over her own members. The delegates of the Churches, in justice and propriety, must have power to withdraw from and disown all Churches which depart from the principles of this compact, by becoming hetrodox in faith, or disorderly in practice. She should, therefore, regard all the Churches united under the constitution with a vigilant eye for good. Her principle business shall be to promote the decorative glory of God by extending his kingdom of grace on earth, through the medium of preaching the gospel, and other means in accordance with that gospel; to cultivate union and fellowship with all the Churches of Christ, and especially with those of the Association.

ART. 5. A newly constituted Church or Churches, dismissed from other Associations, of the same faith and order, may be admitted into this union, on their sending up their delegates to an Annual Meeting, with a petition, and by those delegates agreeing to the Abstract of Principles by this Association.

ART. 6. The Churches in this union shall transmit to every Annual Session of this Association, written communications, specifying the names of the delegates, number in fellowship, number baptized, received by letter, dismissed, excluded, restored, deceased since the last session, and all other information that the Church may deem of importance, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

ART. 7. This Association shall have a fund supplied by the voluntary contributions of the Churches, all moneys thus contributed shall be transmitted from the Churches and paid over through the Committee on Finance to the Treasurer, who shall receive and manage the funds according to the order of the Association, and present annually, for insertion in the Minutes, a clear and full statement of all receipts and expenditures.

ART. 8. This Association shall furnish the Churches with the Minutes of every session.

ART. 9. This Association shall take cognizance of no query sent up from the Churches unless they have endeavored to solve the same and failed; nor of any difficulties between Churches unless they have pursued the directions contained in the 18th chapter of Matthew, and have not been able to settle them, then the Association shall take such matters into consideration, and act upon them at their discretion.

ART. 10. It shall be the duty of the Clerk of this Association to keep a regular file of printed minutes of every session of this body, and deliver over the same to his successor in office.

ART. 11. This Association, when convened shall be governed by proper rules of Decorum, which she is authorized to frame and amend, according to her own views.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	Rec'd by Exp'rience	Rec'd by Letter	Restored	Dismissed by Let'r	Excluded	Dead	Present Number	Contributions
New Providence	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	$4 25
Woodland Grove	2	2	..	..	..	..	17	4.25
New Ebenezer	..	..	..	..	..	..	21	....
Shiloh	..	..	1	2	..	..	34	1.50
Total	4	3	1	2	..	..	72	$10.00

CHURCH DIRECTORY.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	POST OFF.	CLERKS.	POST O.	TIME OF MEET'G.
New Providence.	J. M. Rowe...	Elba... ..	A. Windham..	Elba.....	3d Sunday
Woodland Grove	W. J. Bullard.	Elba.....	J. J. Thames..	Elba.....	1st Sund'y
New Ebenezer..	T. D. Caler...	Elba.....	J. A. Taylor..	Elba.....	1st Sund'y
Shiloh.....	M. Brook.....	Victoria....	J. R. Spurlin..	Elba.....	2d Sunday

ARTICLES OF FAITH,

1st. We believe in one only true and living GOD—the FATHER, the SON, and the HOLY SPIRIT, and these three are one.

2d. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.

3d. We believe in the doctrine of eternal and particular election.

4th. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

5th. We believe in man's incapacity to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, by any exertion of his own free will.

6th. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the IMPUTED righteousness of Jesus Christ.

7th. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

8th. We believe that saints shall persevere in grace, and NEVER FINALLY FALL AWAY.

9th. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ; that true believers are the only subjects of these ordinances; and that immersion only is baptism.

10th. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and the general judgment.

11th. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and that the joys of the righteous will be eternal.

12th. We believe that no minister has a right to administer the ordinances of the Gospel, except one who has been regularly called and ordained to the work by the imposition of the hands of a presbytery.

☞NOTE.—Proof texts omitted in this issue on account of space. CLERK,

RULES OF DECORUM.

RULE 1. The Moderator shall fill the chair and preserve order in the Association, which shall be opened and closed by prayer.

RULE 2. The privileges and authority of the Moderator shall be respected by all the members; he shall decide all questions of order and propriety.

RULE 3. The Moderator shall vote in no case, unless there is a tie in the Association, then he shall give the casting vote. He shall have the same privilege of speaking as other members, provided, he shall appoint some member to fill the chair.

RULE. 4. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator, and keep the subject; and he shall not speak more than twice on the same subject without leave from the chair.

RULE 5. No member shall leave the body while on business, except by permission from the chair.

RULE 6 When a question is taken up, after allowing time for deliberation, the Moderator shall take the voice of the body by calling for the yeas and nays.

RULE 7. All motions in order must be disposed of by the body, unless withdrawn by him that made it.

RULE 8. A list of the names of the delegates shall be called and absentees marked.

RULE 9. The Clerk shall enroll the names of the delegates, and keep a regular record of all the business of the Association.

RULE 10. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected before the body rise.

RULE 11. This Decorum may be altered, or amended, by two-thirds of this body.